

New York Tribune.

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

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Backing Water on the Pro-German Movement.

Some of the quick-on-the-trigger German-Americans who have been talking about starting a pro-German political party in this country are now beginning to regret their indiscretion. The response of American opinion to this odious suggestion has been a revelation to them. They see that they have made a very stupid blunder in following General von Bernhardt's famous admission to Germans naturalized in other countries.

Bernhardt held that it was the duty of such German ex-subjects to consider Germany's interests first, whether or not those interests conflicted with the interests of the land of their adoption. To unhyphenated Americans such a violation of the oath of naturalization and the duties of citizenship is an act of unspeakable baseness. It is a treacherous return for the privileges which the United States so generously showers on those who come here seeking a new home and broader opportunities. There can be no doubt about the short shrift which the American public would give to any party with an alien point of view and a programme subordinating our national well-being to the well-being of some other nation. In the "Staats-Zeitung" of yesterday Mr. Herman Ridder tried to cover up the blunder committed at the Washington conference by saying that that gathering "was dominated by Americans and was designed to promote a policy which may be tritely described as 'America for Americans.'" He said further of the resolutions adopted: "What American wishes less? What American, whatever his racial extraction, would not subscribe to the resolutions adopted at Washington on Saturday?"

It is self-evident that no American who does not put aiding Germany above every other consideration can wish to repeal in the midst of a war the long established rule of international law which permits the citizens or subjects of a neutral state to sell arms and munitions of war to a belligerent. That is a rule to which all the nations now at war have consented and on which all have acted. It would be a gross violation of neutrality to abandon the accepted status quo and to put in force a new rule which would only work to the advantage of one set of belligerents and to the injury of the other.

Moreover, if the programme of the Washington conference is purely American in spirit and aim, why is it necessary to create a new party, recruited exclusively from among "sympathizers with Germany, in order to secure action on it? We have American parties competent to deal with American issues and accustomed to excluding all ideas of alien advantage when settling such issues. Such an organization as the Washington conference contemplated could only be pro-German in aim and pro-German in membership.

There are intelligent German-Americans who see this and are therefore alive to the folly of the movement. In a letter to Representative Bartholdt, declining an invitation to participate in the conference, Professor Kuno Francke, of Harvard University, voiced what we believe to be the real views of most Americans of German origin. He frankly said that he is "bound to support as an American citizen a policy which holds itself strictly within the now accepted rules of neutrality." He added:

"Nothing would be more fatal to our standing in the community than the insistence on racial contrasts and demands. We have every opportunity in this country to make felt what is best in German character and life. Let us continue to do so. . . . But let us refrain from political organizations which would set Germans in this country apart as a class by themselves. Such an attempt would lead not to the raising but to the degradation of the German name in this country. It would foster hatred instead of sympathy; and only by gaining the sympathy of the majority of the American people can we German-Americans help the cause of our mother country."

It is unanswerable logic of this sort, coming from German-Americans themselves, that dooms the pro-German political movement to grotesque failure.

The Honor Treatment for Army Culprits.

The theories of handling prisoners which were tried at Auburn and which Thomas Mott Osborne is carrying out in greater degree at Sing Sing have been applied to the United States Army, it seems. The Tribune's Washington dispatches report that deserters and soldiers who have overstayed their leaves of absence are now assigned to disciplinary barracks instead of to army prisons, and, on an honor system, do hard drill and other military work, rather than street sweeping, scullery labor and similar forms of work reserved for punishment in the past. The officers express great satisfaction with the results of the new treatment.

There is no reason to suppose that the honor treatment will work in every case with soldiers any more than it will with prisoners in the state institutions. But it is the logical, rational method to employ in both cases. If a man is hopelessly bad, a menace to the community beyond a peradventure (and few are), there is nothing to gain by crushing him under the old-style "discipline." If there is some good left in him, encouragement of it under conditions where help and supervision exist seems eminently fitted to benefit the man

and the community of which he must form a part. That should apply as well to army discipline as to prison methods.

The Eastward Trend of Suffrage.

Passage of the woman suffrage constitutional amendment without a negative vote in the Assembly was due to the fact that both political parties are pledged to submit this question to the voters next fall rather than to any general acquiescence in the principle of equal suffrage. Nevertheless, the fact that the women obtained such platform pledges shows what an advance this cause has made here in the last five years.

Half the area of the country now shows white on the suffrage maps, though of course this does not mean that half the women of the country vote. The suffrage wedge is pushing Eastward steadily. New Jersey will also probably submit an amendment next November. It is only a question of time when the votes for women issue will be voted on in all the Eastern States.

Admirable Teacher-Mother Decisions.

Dr. Finley's decisions in four more teacher-mother cases which were before him on appeal were as just as was his decision in the Peixotto case. Mrs. Weeks, whose situation was exactly that of Mrs. Peixotto, was upheld and the board of Education here was ordered to reinstate her. It was only logical to dismiss the appeals of Mrs. Wagner and Mrs. Breslow, for they had not exhausted their chance of local remedy, in that they failed to take their cases before the Board of Education itself when suspended by the superintendents. There can be no dissent, either, from the upholding of the Board of Education in its dismissal of Mrs. Ortman (who concealed her marriage and signed the payroll in her maiden name) on the ground of misconduct.

In all these cases Dr. Finley has acted with a broad conception of the public's interest as well as with a proper appreciation of the individual's. He has reconciled the two admirably, without bias and without the shell-backed attitude of the Board of Education here. It is fortunate for this city that so sensible and able an administrator as he had the deciding voice in these cases, for otherwise the teacher-mother controversy would still be disturbing the schools and vexing the public.

Citizenship Destin.

The fashion which Mme. Schumann-Heink set has not had many followers. In applying for American citizenship Miss Emmy Destin set herself apart from the usual run of opera singers who come and sing but return home to spend and live and die. Just why the call of her beloved Prague became weak does not appear. At any rate, she speaks enthusiastically of her to-be-adopted country, and it is a pleasure to return the compliment. Miss Destin is a good American already. Even those artistic visitors who do not dream of changing nationality are not as snippy toward our shores as once they were. A score of years ago they regarded an American season as a hard trial, to be endured only because of the fabulous gold involved. We have come on since that period. New York is still not Paris or Berlin or Rome. But it has developed out of small beginnings a very real artistic life which in most respects can hold its own with the offerings of any capital of the world. This is no longer the Barbary Coast of art.

Let the Highway Department Settle Down.

Mr. Carlisle, accepting the inevitable with good grace in resigning from the Highway Department at Governor Whitman's request, goes out of office under no such cloud as rested on previous Democratic officials in that department after the Hughes commission was wiped out. He made no signal failure; that is, he made a tolerable success of what in many respects is the most difficult place in the state's service, and he preserved his personal reputation. The new Commissioner, Mr. Duffy, is a personal friend of Governor Whitman's and must be regarded as a personal appointee. Of him the public knows nothing save that and the fact that he served acceptably as a county official in Cortland County. His appointment makes it certain that there will be no tinkering with the highway law this year, which is a good thing. The department has been a political grab-bag since 1911, when the Democrats ousted the Republicans and began the grabbing. It is high time to let it settle down to road building undisturbed by politics.

A Budget System for the State.

Provision for a budget system of handling the state's finances which is made in the bill introduced by Senator Sage and Assemblyman Adler is the logical and certainly the desirable way of meeting the extremely serious situation which exists. A so-called budget system is now in operation, but it consists merely in having department estimates transmitted to the legislative committees to be checked over, compared with estimates prepared by the Department of Efficiency and Economy (about to depart) and embodied in whole or in part in the appropriation bills. It is better than nothing, but not very good, and its operation is no protection whatever against special appropriations.

The method to be installed contemplates having a budget clerk on duty the year round, to prepare estimates of revenues and of necessary expenditures for department operation, interest charges and the like. This budget would be presented to the legislative committee by March 1. By that time most of the special appropriation bills—the grab bills and "pork" bills—would be introduced. The whole question of appropriations and of the financial condition of the state could be taken up. There would be much less chance of any jobs being slipped through by complaisant legislators if the big necessary expenditures were being considered at the same time.

It is no secret that the state's finances are in deplorable condition. A special appropriation bill of \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000—a large part of that sum having been made necessary by Governor Glynn's "economy" of refusing to make provision in his time for legitimate state debts—is under consideration. Extravagance has run riot, and the public must pay now, in all probability, by a heavy state tax for the misrule of the last four years. Rigid economy must be the state's policy for years to come—not a refusal to spend money properly for necessary functions of state, and not penny-squeezing of the Glynn brand, but a consistent and intelligent avoidance of unwise and unnecessary expenditures and all forms of "pork" in the appropriation bills. No one thing can contribute more to the success of such a policy than an intelligently run budget system.

The Conning Tower

ON SEEING ISADORA DUNCAN'S SCHOOL.

This is the morning of the world, and these stars from the burning hand of God outflung in lovely constellations. Goddesses, The First-Born of the heavens, strong-limbed and young, Walking beside the amaranthine streams Touching our hearts with terrible levelness! Or figures seen within the lower of dreams, Whose meaning the waked mind dare never guess.

It is a poem and a prophecy— A glimpse across the forward gulf of time, To show our dazzled souls what life shall be Upon the sunlit heights toward which we climb: A flaming challenge to a world heightened— A lamp of daring in our darkness lighted.

F. D.

"Personally, I have not been persuaded," said Mr. Harold J. Hinman, the majority leader—he may have been persuaded impersonally—"that the extension of the suffrage to women is a matter either of individual justice or of governmental right." Was everybody personally persuaded, one wonders, that the steamboat was an improvement, or that the telegraph simplified life's difficulties?

The suffs, bless 'em, must have been paying a lot of attention to yesterday's doings in Albany. Only three suff organizations wrote to crave our forensic or scriptural aid. Seven a day is begin.

SURFACE CAR SCHEDULE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

	App. Lv.		App. Lv.
	P.M. P.M.		P.M. P.M.
10th St.	3:41	4th St.	3:23 3:23
N. 15th St.	3:44 3:44	Astoria St.	3:30 3:30
N. 13th St.	3:42 3:42	Thacker St.	3:30 3:30
N. 11th St.	3:40 3:40	Houston St.	3:42 3:42
N. 9th St.	3:38 3:38	Spring St.	3:40 3:40
11th St. Jun't'n	3:38 3:38	Broome St.	3:46 3:46
14th St. Centre.	3:39 3:39	Grand St.	3:48 3:48
E. 11th St.	3:35 3:35	W. Walker St.	3:52 3:52
12th St.	3:32 3:32	Jun'ne St.	3:59 3:59
9th St.	3:22 3:22	Chambers St.	4:19 4:19